

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 9117

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT MOPS ECON VS

SUBJECT: SAIGON AS OF JULY 29

SUMMARY: THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES HAVE STARTED QUARTERING SOLIDERS IN PRIVATE HOMES AND ANTI-GOVERNMENT LEAFLETS HAVE BEGUN TO APPEAR, ACCORDING TO A CHOLON BORN YOUNG WOMAN WHO DEPARTED SAIGON JULY 29. DURING TWO INTERVIEWS WITH CONGEN OFFICER, THE WOMAN, WHO DEPARTED ON A FRENCH PASSPORT RELATED THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ABOUT PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS IN SAIGON. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PRG HAS RECENTLY BEGUN QUARTERING ONE OR TWO NORTHERN SOLIDERS IN HOMES THROUGHOUT SAIGON. THE HOMES SELECTED SEEM TO BE ACROSS-THE-BOARD WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL REGARD TO CLASS OR POLITICAL RELIABILITY. THE SOLIDERS OBSERVE WHAT GOES ON IN THE HOMES, HOW PEOPLE LIVE, WHAT THEY EAT, ETC. THEY ARE WELL BEHAVED AND BRING THEIR OWN FOOD. (COMMENT: EVEN IN THE MOST PRO-COMMUNIST HOMES, THESE UNVITED NORTHERN GUESTS WILL ENGERNDER RESENTMENT. WHAT IS WORSE FOR THE GOVENMENT

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IS THAT THE NORTHERNERS WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE FIRST HAND

ACCOUNT OF THE RELATIVELY HIGH STANDARD OF SAIGON LIVING TO THE FOLKS BACK HOME. END COMMENT).

2. IN THE MARKET PLACE PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT ARE BEGINNING TO APPEAR. THE LEAFLETS ARE FOUND STUFFED INTO GROCERIES AND PACKAGES. ONE LEAFLET READ QUOTE, WE WERE NOT THE RUNNING-DOGS OF THE AMERICANS AND WE WILL NOT BE THEIRS. UNQUOTE. (SOURCE CLAIMS SHE WAS HANDED SUCH A LEAFLET BUT IMMEDIATELY THREW IT AWAY FOR FEAR OF BEING CAUGHT WITH IT.)

3. THERE ARE CONTINUING RUMORS IN SAIGON OF RESISTANCE FROM FORMER GVN TROOPS IN THE DELTA. NO DETAILS WERE KNOWN AS TO SIZE OF CLASHES OR EXACT LOCATIONS. THERE ARE ALSO STORIES CIRCULATING ABOUT CLASHES (ESPECIALLY IN CHAU DOC) BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIAN FORCES.

4. HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE BEING STRIPPED FROM HOSPITALS IN CHOLON AND SHIPPED TO HANOI. (WHEN ASKED HOW THIS WAS KNOWN SOURCE EXPLAINED THAT MANY PEOPLE SAW THE SOLDIERS CARRYING OUT THE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES BUT DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER.)

THERE WERE NO GENERAL POLITICAL EXECUTIONS HEARD OF IN SAIGON. FORMER EMPLOYEES OF AMERICANS HAD NOT BEEN PICKED UP BUT THEY WERE UNEMPLOYED AND THERE WAS GREAT DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK. MANY PERSONS WERE STILL TRYING TO ESCAPE THE COUNTRY. THOSE CAUGHT ESCAPING WERE PLACED IN A CAMP, AFTER WHICH THE MEN AND WOMEN WERE SEPARATED AND SENT TO THE PROVINCES TO WORK THE LAND.

6. FOREIGN BUSINESSES APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER BY THE GOVERNMENT. BANKS WERE OPEN BUT ONE COULD WITHDRAW ONLY VN \$1000 FOR EACH VN\$10,000 IN A BANK ACCOUNT. (THERE WERE RUMORS THAT MORE COULD BE WITHDRAWN IF A PAYOFF WAS MADE.) THE BLACK MARKET IN CURRENCY WAS STILL FUNCTIONING AND US\$100 WAS EXCHANGING FOR VN\$190,000 A TAE OF GOLD SOLD FOR VN\$320,000. (SOURCE'S FAMILY WERE GOLDSMITHS.) THE OLD GVN MONEY WAS STILL IN CIRCULATIONS. (THERE WERE NO SPECIAL PGR STAMPS PLACED ON THE

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MONEY CONTRARY TO REPORTS CONGEN OCCASIONALLY HEARS FROM NON-VIETNAMESE SOURCES.)

7. AFTER WAITING THREE MONTHS, SOURCE WAS ISSUED AN EXIT VISA ON A SEPARATE GOVERNMENT PAPER(NOT IN HER FRENCH PASSPORT) AT NO COST. SHE DEPARTED ON JULY 29 ON A DIRECT FLIGHT FROM SAIGON TO VIENTIANE. MOST OF HER FELLOW PASSENGERS WERE FRENCH OR CHINESE WITH FRENCH PASSPORTS.

THE AIRLINE TICKET (AN OLD AIR VIET-NAM TICKET WITH
SYMBOL STRUCK OUT) COST \$140 PAID IN US DOLLARS. OUT
OF US \$4000 SHE WAS CARRYING THE AUTHORITIES PERMITTED
HER TO TAKE OUT \$640 AND RELIEVED HER OF THE REMAINDER
WITHOUT RECIEPT. A WEALTHY CHINESE LANDLORD WITH A
FRENCH PASSPORT AND TICKET, WHOM SHE KNEW WAS INFORMED
AT THE AIRPORT THAT HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO LEAVE.
CROSS

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